

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY,  
INDIANA HELD A MEETING IN THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING  
ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2006.**

The meeting of the **New Albany City Council** was called to order by President Jeff Gahan at 7:30 p.m. The meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Council Members Mr. Coffey, Mr. Price, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Kochert, Mrs. Crump, Mr. Blevins, Mr. Messer, Mr. Seabrook, and President Jeff Gahan.

**OTHERS:** City Attorney Shane Gibson and City Clerk Marcey Wisman.

**ALSO:** John Rosenbarger, Adam Dickey, Scott Wood, Planning and Zoning, Brian Dixon, EMC, Paul Wheatley, Economic Development Director, and Mayor James E. Garner, Sr.

**APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

**Mr. Seabrook** moved to approve the public hearing minutes of October 19, 2006, **Mr. Messer** second, all voted in favor. **Mr. Kochert** and **Mr. Schmidt** abstained due to not being present

**Mr. Coffey** moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 19, 2006, **Mr. Price** second, all voted in favor. **Mr. Kochert** and **Mr. Schmidt** abstained due to not being present.

**COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC:**

**Sandy Boofter**, city employee, spoke in favor of the longevity ordinance for non-bargaining employees. She mentioned that several of the council member's income is impacted by the unions bargaining.

**COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OFFICIALS:**

**Mr. Rosenbarger** spoke on the L & D Mail masters abatement for equipment only for 10 years. He also spoke in favor of the longevity ordinance.

**Mr. Coffey** asked what taxes will be collected on the equipment after the abatement time.

**Mr. Rosenbarger** stated that this is difficult to assess because of the depreciation on the equipment.

**There was a lengthy discussion as to whether equipment abatements are worthwhile for the city.**

**Mrs. Crump** reported on a meeting for the communication workers and she presented minutes from the committee meeting regarding the ambulance service which are on file with the City Clerk's office.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that there were a lot of questions regarding not just the response time of the ambulance but also the time that it takes to prepare them and get them to the medical facility.

**Mr. Kochert** stated that at the meeting there was only a 50% to 55% collection rate and maybe we need to go after these collections.

**There was a lengthy discussion as to finding a way to get the ambulance back on line.**

**Mr. Messer** brought up the fact that there is not enough man power on the fire department which is causing the largest budget problems and he believes that the Mayor needs to step up and hire more fire fighters.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that we need to sit down and find a solution rather than pointing fingers. He said that even if we hired them tonight it would be up to a year before they could go on the ambulance.

**Mr. Seabrook** stated that he believed that there is nothing that stops them from saying that they have to work as EMT-I's for two to three years.

**Mayor Garner** stated that the ordinance states that they have to be firefighters first.

**There was a lengthy discussion about bringing the hiring ordinance back before the council that was pulled after a four to four vote.**

**Mr. Coffey** asked to be removed from the committee because all he heard was finger pointing and no answers or no direction. He thinks that they either need to amend the ordinance currently on the book or pass the ordinance that is before them.

**Mrs. Crump** stated that if they hire paramedics or EMT's they will not fit under the dual trained ordinance and will not be covered under the fire pension.

**There was a lengthy discussion regarding the hiring of EMT's and who would represent them and whether or not they could be covered by the fire pension.**

**Mr. Coffey** asked to bring A-06-13 up at the next meeting.

**Mrs. Crump** stated that she would need to discuss this with her committee. She stated that she cannot approve hiring non-fire fighters for the ambulance.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he cannot allow the city to go without the safety precautions that it needs.

**Chuck Simons** addressed the council regarding the street department and why it would be beneficial for them to have a new packer to make the department more efficient.

**Mr. Price** had questions regarding city equipment and who is using it and whether or not we are being compensated for this equipment. He also asked if we are bidding out the housing authority sanitation.

**Mayor Garner** explained that we are going to put a bid in for the housing authority job.

**There was a lengthy discussion about where the truck would be used.**

**Chief Toran** brought up the issue that the fire department is going to also run into a problem with the DROP program and that they are going to need money and man power.

**Deputy Chief Mason** discussed a case in another city that has a program with civilian paramedics housed in the fire houses and that it does work.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that they should ask the storm board not to make any binding decisions until the council has an opportunity to review the operations of the board. He read an email that Mr. Deatrick sent to Mrs. Coyle regarding the drainage department operations falling under the authority of the Mayor and Mr. Toran.

**There was a lengthy discussion over misinformation and information that is going through the storm board and contracts that the board is contemplating.**

**Mr. Gahan** stated that the immediate problem is that Elizabeth Coyle has resigned.

**Mrs. Crump** brought up that the storm water board could not spend any money until it went before the council.

**Mr. Schmidt** stated that they do not have a budget and they cannot spend a dime.

**Mayor Garner** stated that they are spending money for emergency repairs.

**COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:**

**Mayor Garner** spoke in favor of the longevity ordinance. He stated that in regards to the problem with the ambulance he offered them a solution with the ordinance to expand their services and that they need to do something because our EMS runs continue to go up.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Building Inspector – Scott Hollis**

**Mr. Gahan** stated that the appointment for the building inspector has been put on hold that it should not have been put on the agenda yet.

**Mayor Garner** stated that he has not taken his certification test yet.

**Mr. Gahan called for a recess at 8:36 p.m.**

**The meeting reconvene at 8:40 p.m.**

**APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:**

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:                      READING**

R-06-21              Resolution to Purchase Needed Equipment for Sanitation      Blevins  
Department

**Mr. Blevins** amended Sanitation to Street department in the title, first paragraph and the fourth paragraph.

**Mr. Blevins introduced R-06-21 and motioned for the reading by title only as amended, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor by show of hands.**

R-06-39              Resolution Concerning Statement of Benefits for                      Schmidt  
L & D Mail Masters, Inc. By the Common  
Council of the City of New Albany

**Mr. Schmidt** amend from 10 to 5 years, **Mr. Seabrook** second the amendment, all voted in favor.

**Mr. Schmidt introduced R-06-39 and motioned for the reading by title only as amended, Mr. Price second, all voted in favor by show of hands, except Mr. Coffey who voted nay.**

R-06-40              Additional Appropriation Resolution                                      Kochert

**Mr. Kochert introduced R-06-40 and motioned for the reading by title only, Mr. Crump second, all voted in favor by show of hands.**

A-06-19              Additional Appropriation (Local Law Grant)                              Messer 1

**Mr. Messer introduced A-06-19 and motioned for the first reading by title only, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor.**

Z-06-22	An Ordinance For the Vacation of a Public Way Pursuant to a Petition Filed by New Albany- Floyd County School Corporation	Crump 1
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**This item has been tabled indefinitely on written request of the petitioner.**

A-06-14	Additional Appropriation (LRS Fund)	Blevins 2&3
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**Mr. Blevins introduced A-06-14 and motioned for the second and third reading by title only, Mr. Messer second, all voted in favor. Bill A-06-14 became ordinance A-06-40**

A-06-15	Additional Appropriation (Riverboat Fund)	Price 2&3
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**Mr. Price introduced A-06-15 and motioned for the second and third reading by title only, Mrs. Crump second, all voted in favor except Mr. Coffey and Mr. Kochert who voted nay. Bill A-06-15 became ordinance A-06-41**

A-06-16	Additional Appropriation (Parks N-R fund)	Coffey 2&3
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**Mr. Coffey introduced A-06-16 and motioned for the second and third readings by title only, Mr. Messer second, all voted in favor. Bill A-06-16 became ordinance A-06-42**

A-06-17	Additional Appropriation (Ambulance N-R Fund)	Seabrook 2&3
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**Mr. Seabrook introduced A-06-17 and motioned for the second and third reading by title only, Mr. Price second, all voted in favor. Bill A-06-17 became ordinance A-06-43.**

A-06-18	Additional Appropriation (Veterinary N-R Fund)	Messer 2&3
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**Mr. Messer introduced A-06-18 and motioned for the second and third reading by title only, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor. Bill A-06-17 became ordinance A-06-44.**

A-06-12	An Ordinance Setting Longevity for Non-Union Employees of the City of New Albany, Indiana	Coffey 3
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**Mr. Coffey introduced A-06-12 and motioned for the third reading by title only, Mr. Price second,**

**Mr. Price** stated that he believes that this is one step to bridge the gap between the union and non-union employees and in the future they may not be able to give raises but they will still receive their longevity.

**Mr. Gahan** stated that he believes that something needs to happen for the employees but he doesn't feel comfortable with this.

**Mr. Seabrook** states that he also believes that something needs to be done for the employees but he doesn't agree with this.

**There was a lengthy discussion regarding whether or not it would be best to give them longevity or a percentage raise.**

**The motion did not carry with 4 ayes from Mr. Coffey, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Price and Mr. Blevins and 5 nays from Mr. Kochert, Mrs. Crump, Mr. Messer, Mr. Seabrook and Mr. Gahan.**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

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Jeff Gahan, President  
Common Council, City of New Albany

ATTEST:\_\_\_\_\_  
Marcey Wisman, City Clerk